OAKWOOD BEGINS
GRADUATE PROGRAMS:
OFFERS MASTER OF ARTS
IN PASTORAL STUDIES

BRADFORD-CLEVELAND-
BROOKS LEADERSHIP CENTER
GRAND OPENING

OU AMBASSADORS ARE
USCAA 2008 CHAMPIONS

MUSICAL FESTIVAL OF
SPIRITUALS V: KEEPING
A TRADITION ALIVE

PRESIDENT’S GOAL
TO RUN MARATHONS
IN ALL STATES
AND CONTINENTS

“OAKWOOD UNIVERSITY”
OAKWOOD HAS
NEW NAME, NEW,
DIRECTION
New Name Ushers In New Opportunities

This issue of Oakwood University Magazine celebrates an important new step in Oakwood’s development. As you know, on January 1, 2008, Oakwood College officially became Oakwood University. The desire to rename the institution has been considered and studied for most of the past decade. However, rather than simply assume the name “university,” Oakwood’s faculty and administration felt it necessary to fulfill the expectations such a name implied by offering graduate-level degrees. In this issue we explore the process, from the vote to rename, to the initial offering of the Master of Arts in Pastoral Studies.

Construction has been taking place on the campus as the new men’s residence hall nears completion and the Bradford-Cleveland-Brooks Leadership Center was dedicated. The center is named in honor of three beloved leaders of the church, Elders C. E. Bradford, E. E. Cleveland, and C. D. Brooks. The building and dedication are featured in this issue.

Drs. Audley Chambers and Edith Fraser examine different aspects of “cyberspace” and online university instruction. Can online classes provide a viable alternative to on-campus presence? With the pervasive presence of computer technology on campus, this is becoming increasingly more an integral part of the educational process.

The OU Board of Trustees voted to confirm a request by the Athletic Department to compete in the United States Collegiate Athletic Association (USCAA) on a two-year trial basis. After a successful season, the Ambassadors received their first invitation from the USCAA to compete in the 2008 national tournament in Tulsa, Oklahoma. They had no idea they would be bringing back the championship trophy. Congratulations to the team and coaches. Read about the details of the tournament in this issue.

Finally, Dr. Roy Malcolm, guiding light behind the Festival of Spirituals, held on the OU campus every two years, chronicles the success of Festival V, one of the largest gatherings of HBCU choirs in Tennessee Valley history. These young people are keeping alive a musical art form that has meant much to the Black community for many years.

We at Oakwood University continue to request the prayers and support of our alumni and friends as the institution we love enters an exciting new age of responsibility.

—Bill Cleveland
BY MICHELE SOLOMON

In January 1, 2008, Oakwood College became Oakwood University. This name change is a crowning step in a 112-year journey for the institution.

For the 16 students who gathered here at its opening in 1896, Oakwood Industrial School offered an opportunity to learn a trade in agriculture, animal husbandry, printing, or masonry. The days were filled with hard work as the students supported themselves by working in the fields and making mattresses and brooms. Gradually, the emphasis changed to liberal arts subjects. Early photographs show student classes in astronomy, mathematics, band, and nursing.

By the 1930s, Oakwood Junior College had become a primarily liberal arts institution. Students attended for two years, then transferred to another college or university to complete a baccalaureate degree. In the 1940s, Oakwood became a four-year institution and dropped the “junior” from its name. The next major milestone arrived in 1958 as Oakwood received its initial regional accreditation from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS), which it has since maintained.

Oakwood College kept a steady student enrollment through the 1940s, 1950s and 1960s of 400 to 500. In the 1970s, however, enrollment began to take off, reaching and exceeding 1,000. In the fall semester of 2007, enrollment reached an all-time high of 1,824. This has challenged the institution’s residential and classroom facilities, mandating new construction. In the 1980s, the Cooper Science Complex was erected. In the 1990s, Wade Hall was built. The 2000s have seen the construction of the Cooper Science Complex, the Bradford-Cleveland-Brooks Leadership Center, and the renovation of the Moses-Reynold and Theology Complex. This spring, a new men’s residential hall will be completed, offering state-of-the-art accommodations for 257 students.

The decision to seek university status was made almost ten years ago. However, rather than merely change the name, administrators and faculty favored legitimizing the new status by offering graduate degrees. For several years, the Academic Division has been positioning the school for the achievement of this goal. Last June, SACS approved the institution’s request to offer its first graduate degree, the Master of Arts in Pastoral Studies. That SACS approval advanced Oakwood to its current Level III status. Other graduate degrees are planned.

A special meeting of Oakwood’s constituency delegates representing the school’s core groups met on Sunday, December 2, 2007, and voted to change the name of the institution. Appreciating the rich history of the name Oakwood, the delegates’ vote for “Oakwood University” brought closure to extensive discussions engaged administrators, faculty, staff, and students over the past several months in efforts to facilitate diversity of input. The final vote followed two hours of careful deliberation in response to questions surrounding strategic planning for the institution’s future direction. Such discussions provided a springboard for the issue of incorporating graduate program offerings as a part of the institution’s academic goals.

The decision to change the name has been met with applause among all of Oakwood University’s constituent groups. At Spring Convocation 2008, local business and government representatives joined faculty, staff, and students in a campus-wide celebration held January 29 at the newly named Oakwood University Church. Students received university flags to display on their cars, and a reception was held in Blake Center, as a festive mood enveloped the campus.

For the past 10 consecutive years, Oakwood has been one of the few Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) to enjoy inclusion in top-tier rankings among America’s Best Colleges and Universities in the Southern region of the United States (U.S. News & World Report). Recently, Oakwood was listed #22 among the 110 HBCUs in a special ranking published by U.S. News & World Report. This level of excellence will continue as Oakwood University enters a challenging new century.

Fellow Oakwoodians around the nation and around the world have celebrated January 1, 2008, at the birthday of Oakwood University. This blessed event in Oakwood history comes approximately 50 years after its original accreditation in 1958, and nearly 112 years after opening its doors as Oakwood Industrial School in 1896.

The name “Oakwood” still reminds us of the abundance of oak trees that populated the original 380 acres purchased in 1895 for the establishment of this wonderful educational institution. Established through the vision of a prophetess, maintained through hard times by the dedication and sacrifice of pioneers, Oakwood University is a tree whose branches reach throughout the world. More than 7,000 alumni have gone forth from this institution to bless their communities with caring Christian service.

An Oakwoodian is a special person, and Oakwood University is a special place. A tiny infant institution was born Oakwood Industrial School in 1896, took baby-steps as Oakwood Manual Training School in 1904, enjoyed a growth-spurt as Oakwood Junior College in 1917, entered adolescence as Oakwood College in 1943 and then grew into adulthood as Oakwood University as of 2008. Each new label has meant something, marked a progression, required new obligations, inspired higher expectations.

What will Oakwood University mean? Only time will tell as a redefined faculty, staff, and student body commit to the task of keeping “The Oak” on top.

As President Delbert Baker noted, “This historic decision speaks to the quality of Oakwood’s faculty, staff, and students. We have a rich legacy and a bright future as Oakwood University.”

WOCG Becomes WJOU

Yet another essential change that came about as a result of Oakwood’s adoption of a new name was the University’s radio station. On January 4, 2008, the Federal Communications Commission granted Oakwood University’s request to change the call letters of the campus radio station to reflect its new academic status.

According to General Manager, Victoria Joiner Miller, “The call letters, WOCG, were not really an acronym but did represent a short version of Oakwood College. The change to WJOU reflects the university’s new rank as a four-year university.” Oakwood University is now reflected in our new call letters, WJOU. The mysterious J in the new call letters can stand for many things, but we like to think of Joy because Jesus loves Oakwood University! Miller continues, “This has been quite a transition for us after broadcasting for nearly 30 years as WOCG. We have big signs with WJOU all over the studios and even one on the microphone in the main studio so we can remember to say, WJOU!”

Oakwood College Radio was established in December of 1978 when the first test broadcasts were conducted from the old studio building at the top of the hill on Oakwood Road. The station began full-time operations in January of 1979 with an effective radiated power of 25,000 kW covering the entire Tennessee Valley for 18 hours a day. Since then, the station has grown and diversified, but thrived through format changes, changes in the industry, changes in the tower, changes in equipment, changes in management, changes in students, changes in facilities, and now the change in the call letters. But the primary mission of the station has never changed—to train Oakwood students in radio broadcasting and to share the love of Jesus with the world.

It is exciting to realize how the Lord is still using this little radio station to reach the world. The call letters may have changed, but the mission remains the same—to lift Him up and praise His name! Miller maintains, “We remain committed to our educational license by serving our students. But we remain most committed to our Lord Jesus Christ in these last days in earth’s history, to share His love, through our unique Seventh-day Adventist Three Angel’s Messages, with our listeners each day on Praise 90.1 FM WJOU.”

Oakwood University became official 12:00 a.m., January 1, 2008 (see above); the campus/community celebration took place at Spring Convocation, January 29, 2008.
“Why?” you may ask. The Executive Editor of Oakwood Magazine recently did just that. Michele Solomon, Public Relations Director, asked Dr. Delbert W. Baker, 10th President of Oakwood University, to answer the “why?” and spotlight the significance of this pivotal point in Oakwood’s history by listing ten (10) highlights of this year that make it one of the more significant.

In typical style, Dr. Baker sent out a call for various campus leaders to identify what they consider to be the academic year’s highlights. Their responses were collected, collated, and ranked. Whether you agree, disagree, or waive an opinion, one thing is for sure: The academic year 2007-2008 has been a year to remember. It should go without saying that while these events may have culminated, originated, or were completed in 2007-2008, in most cases they were the result of years or months of thinking, planning and implementing. First are the selected Top 10 Highlights followed by each event in detail and the accomplishment pool from which it was selected.

General Categories

Academic Affirmation
• US News & World Report ranked Oakwood College 22 among the 110 nationally recognized Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) and ranks it among the best colleges in the southern region for 10th successive year
• Oakwood receives official SACs accreditation approval to move from Level II to Level III
• Oakwood name is changed from College to University at historic Constituency Session

Establishment of the Academy of Arts in Pastoral Studies

Construction of Holland Hall to be completed in April
Renovation of C. E. Moseley Religion Complex (first since its construction in the 1970s)

More than half a mile of sidewalk and ADA improvements

History is made with Oakwood achieving highest enrollment of 1824; its celebration includes a three-piece suit presidential dive into the swimming pool

Sixth year of receiving the Huntsville Beautification Award resulting in the Mark’s River Roll

The Diversity Educational Exchange Program (DEEP) between Oakwood University and Southern Adventist University, sponsored by the Southern Union Conference, completes its tenth year

A Place Called Oakwood was published and dedicated to the institution

Fourth year of the Employee Wellness Program that emphasizes weight loss, Scale Back Alabama, CREATION and NEW START models, with incentives for healthy habits via premium reductions and award programs

Institutional Strategic Plan has been successfully used as a tool for progress for 10 years

Financial Solvency
• Completion of successful Financial Turnaround Strategy resulting in a notable positive solvent position
• Achievement of successful clean audits and status as a low risk auditee, termed as Golden Audits by accounting firms
• Reaching land to Oakwood Academy for construction of a new facility
• Establishing a Land Development Committee to maximize use of Oakwood’s close to 1300 acres
• Development of the Emergency Operation Plan that comprehensively addresses issues of safety, security, and disaster and emergency preparedness

Holland Hall

(Men’s Residence) Dedication: May 9, 2008

Top 10 Highlights

1. Enrollment: Reaches highest enrollment with 1,824 students
2. Name Change: Oakwood College becomes Oakwood University
3. Student Leaders: Student leadership and spirituality exemplified in spirituality, outreach, and academics
4. Fundraising: Historic fundraising year with record donations from families, friends, and organizations
5. Graduate Program: Begins first graduate program, the Master of Arts in Pastoral Studies
6. Campus Improvement: Construction of Bradford-Cleveland-Brooks Leadership Center and renovation of C. E. Moseley Religion Complex
7. New Residence Hall: Completes state-of-the-art men’s residential hall to house 256 persons
8. Financial Solvency: Achieves financial solvency goals and maintains budgetary stewardship
9. Creating the Future: Building the institutional endowment, development of natural land resources and maintenance of the Strategic Planning Document/Process as the institution’s guiding tool
10. Bright Prospects: The energy and synergy of well thought-through vision and plans for the future
With a cap on his head, a number tucked to his shirt, a book on tape occasionally blaring through his ears, Delbert Baker runs in some of the most historic places on earth.

He runs through the streets of Jerusa-


mel, past the pyramids in Cairo, on the

original marathon course in Athens,

Greece.

The chip also records his miles on a

web site. Last year, he downloaded more than 3,000 miles, making him one of the nation’s top 500 runners on Nike’s web site.

The principles he follows are spelled out in the CREATION Health Model (www.creationhealth.com/sites/) for healthy living. Florida Hospital developed the CREATION Health Model and is sponsoring Dr. Baker to run 12 monthly marathons throughout 2008 in different states. So far this year, he has completed three Marathons, in Minneapolis, Minn.; Ft. Worth, Tex.; and New Orleans, La.

The principles he follows are spelled out in the CREATION Health Model acrosst.

Choice (positive lifestyle decisions)

Rest (deep sleep and relaxation)

Environment (air, water)

Activity (stretching, muscle development, aerobic activity exercise)

Trust (positive spiritual and healing relationships)

Interpersonal Relations (family, friends, and support groups)

Outlook (attitude, and good emotional intelligence)

Nutrition (diet, and overall health and energy-building practices)

Marathon Facts

• The 26.2-mile marathon is recognized as one of the most difficult athletic tasks with less than an estimated 1% of the US population having run a marathon in their lifetime.

• In recent years Marathon running has been popularized by Al Gore and Oprah Winfrey having completing one.

• The Athens Marathon commemorates Pheidippides, a messenger assigned to report the victory of the Greek Athenians over the Persians, who arrived in Athens after running the 20 plus miles, and cried “Nike—Victory, we have won!” The first modern Olympic Games were held in 1896 in Greece.

• To prepare for running a marathon, it is recommended that a person consult with his physician. The CREATION Health Model is also an excellent way to begin training.

At the 13.1 mark, his wife and sons awaited him. He figured they were there to congratulate him. But they were unimpressed.

“They said, ‘It’s only 13.1 miles—go the rest of the way,’” he says. “That was motivation for me to go for the entire 26.2 miles. I did it and I’ve been hooked ever since.”

Dr. Marshall is a staff writer for The Huntsville Times. This article has been reprinted with permission, courtesy of The Huntsville Times. All rights reserved.
Bradford, Cleveland, Brooks Leadership Center

Think Tank

Opens at Oakwood University

By Harold Lee

On October 22, 2007, representatives and guests from the General Conference, the North American Division, the Regional conferences, and state and local government joined Oakwood’s students, faculty, staff, administrators, and friends to inaugurate the historic Bradford-Cleveland-Brooks Leadership Center (BCBLC). The new structure is an expansion of the Moseley Religion and Theology complex and offers opportunities for continuing education in pastoral studies.

The new facility is named in honor of Elder Charles E. Bradford, the first Black president of the North American Division; Elder E. E. Cleveland, a pace-setter in public evangelism; and Elder Charles D. Brooks, the first speaker/director of the Booth of Life telecast. Though retired, these three giants continue to provide outstanding, proven ministerial models of leadership in the Seventh-day Adventist Church. All three honored participated in a ribbon cutting to officially open the new facility, then attended a special reception following a red-carpet entrance to the building.

The concept for this innovative ministry reaches back to the evangelism seminars held by Elder Cleveland in the 1950s and 1960s. These seminars, initially for ministerial majors, became the model for the annual Pastoral and Evangelism Council, held each year on the Oakwood University campus. In the 1980s, Oakwood administrators sketched out plans for a facility, named for Elder Cleveland, that would house a department dedicated to pastoral evangelism and enrichment. The time was not right and the plans were shelved.

In the 1990s, President Baker restudied the plans and decided to see if he could make it happen. He approached the Regional presidents and the OU Board of Trustees, and following prayerful consideration, the decision was made to erect a dedicated facility and extensively renovate the Moseley Complex. The funding would be provided by the Regional conferences, the NAD, the General Conference, and Oakwood University. The entity was officially founded in 1999 as the Bradford-Cleveland-Brooks Institute for Continuing Education in Ministry (BCBII), later renamed Bradford-Cleveland-Brooks Leadership Center.

Among the special guests in attendance were: Dr. Jan Paulsen, president; Dr. Ella Simmons, vice president; Elder Bob Lemon, treasurer; and Elder Matthew Bediako, secretary, respectively, of the General Conference. Also in attendance from the North American Division were Elders Don Schneider, president and OC Board chair; Alvin Kibble, vice president; and Roscoe Howard, secretary. Representing the Regional conferences were Elders Gordon Reiter, president of the Southern Union, Dr. Ron Smith, secretary of the Southern Union; and Benjamin Browne, president of the South Central Conference, were also in attendance. A special welcome was extended to Elsworth McKee and his wife, who made a generous gift to the university.

The 10,000-square-foot, technology-ready addition to the Moseley Complex measures 200 feet by 400 feet and costs $2.5 million. It features the latest computer equipment and satellite uplink equipment. There are six classrooms, eight offices, a boardroom, a library/computer center, and a 200-seat auditorium. The new building is completely furnished with the latest student seating and desks. The facility accompanies a complete renovation of the E. E. Moseley Religion Complex.

The building will facilitate the training of pastors and lay workers for the church, along with providing workshops, conferences, and seminars on ministry and lifestyle development. The main focus of the center is the provision of faith-based, relevant, lifelong learning opportunities for clergy and non-clergy in ministry. Participants in these studies will be offered Christ-centered strategies to address church and societal issues, evangelism and church growth, and community service and disaster recovery.

The center’s aim is to become a think tank for church and community members of all faiths working together to develop resources for excellence in ministry. These resources will be available worldwide. The facility also provides instructional space for the first master’s degree offered on Oakwood’s campus—the Master of Arts in Pastoral Studies. The primary objective of the BCBLC is to support the new masters program.

Dr. Harold Lee, former president of the Columbia Union, has accepted the position of director of the Bradford-Cleveland-Brooks Leadership Center. He views the center as an “Adventist Christian learning organization initiated by the North American Division Regional Presidents’ Council in collaboration with the Oakwood University Board of Trustees. The center is designed to provide education and excellence in leadership skills at all levels of the church.”

The BCBLC will provide a cross-cultural, lifelong learning ministry offering curriculum in biblically based, God-centered, missionally oriented, professionally driven theological and sociological research, consultation, and generative coaching for men and women at the undergraduate and graduate levels of learning.”

Honorees, Board of Trustees Members, Church and University officials prepare to cut the BCBLC ribbon.

Jan Paulsen

GC President

Charles E. Bradford

Administration

E. E. Cleveland

Evangelism

Charles D. Brooks

Media Ministry

Dr. Harold Lee

OC Board chair; past president and OC Board chair; Evan Bryant, vice chair; respectively, of the Regional Presidents Council.

Elders Charles Cheatham, chairman, and Alex Bryant, vice chair, respectively, of the Regional Presidents Council.

Elders Gordon Reiter, president of the Southern Union, Dr. Ron Smith, secretary of the Southern Union; and Benjamin Browne, president of the South Central Conference, were also in attendance. A special welcome was extended to Elsworth McKee and his wife, who made a generous gift to the university.

The 10,000-square-foot, technology-ready addition to the Moseley Complex measures 200 feet by 400 feet and costs $2.5 million. It features the latest computer equipment and satellite uplink equipment. There are six classrooms, eight offices, a boardroom, a library/computer center, and a 200-seat auditorium. The new building is completely furnished with the latest student seating and desks. The facility accompanies a complete renovation of the E. E. Moseley Religion Complex.

The building will facilitate the training of pastors and lay workers for the church, along with providing workshops, conferences, and seminars on ministry and lifestyle development. The main focus of the center is the provision of faith-based, relevant, lifelong learning opportunities for clergy and non-clergy in ministry. Participants in these studies will be offered Christ-centered strategies to address church and societal issues, evangelism and church growth, and community service and disaster recovery.

The center’s aim is to become a think tank for church and community members of all faiths working together to develop resources for excellence in ministry. These resources will be available worldwide. The facility also provides instructional space for the first master’s degree offered on Oakwood’s campus—the Master of Arts in Pastoral Studies. The primary objective of the BCBLC is to support the new masters program.

Dr. Harold Lee, former president of the Columbia Union, has accepted the position of director of the Bradford-Cleveland-Brooks Leadership Center. He views the center as an “Adventist Christian learning organization initiated by the North American Division Regional Presidents’ Council in collaboration with the Oakwood University Board of Trustees. The center is designed to provide education and excellence in leadership skills at all levels of the church.”

The BCBLC will provide a cross-cultural, lifelong learning ministry offering curriculum in biblically based, God-centered, missionally oriented, professionally driven theological and sociological research, consultation, and generative coaching for men and women at the undergraduate and graduate levels of learning.”

Honorees, Board of Trustees Members, Church and University officials prepare to cut the BCBLC ribbon.

Jan Paulsen

GC President

Charles E. Bradford

Administration

E. E. Cleveland

Evangelism

Charles D. Brooks

Media Ministry
Oakwood Launches Its First Graduate Program

BY DR. AGNIEL SAMSON

The year 2008 will be written with golden letters in the annals of Oakwood history. It is the year Oakwood College officially became Oakwood University. It is the year that the renovated Moseley Complex and the newly built Bradford-Cleveland-Brooks Leadership Center were opened for operation. It is the year that the newly developed Master of Arts in Pastoral Studies was first taught.

The Master of Arts in Pastoral Studies (MAPS) was developed over several years of hard work. Long before its inception, both the university administration and the faculty of the Religion and Theology Department studied the practicability of such a program. But it was not until the past four years that the project started to take shape. One of our first steps was to conduct a feasibility study whose results influenced the direction to be followed. Based on institutional surveys, the decision was made to concentrate on Church Development.

The entire faculty got involved in the development of the curriculum, but it was Dr. Finbar Benjamin who collected all the documents needed to produce the final proposal that was submitted to the Office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs. After receiving the accreditation of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists and of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS), the program was ready to be offered. That required a lot of work under the coordination of Dr. Trevor Fraser and the organizational expertise of Shelley Vaughn.

After considerable behind-the-scenes preparations, the first cohort of students started its first intensive on January 7, 2008. Twenty-two students attended the lectures and got intensely involved in the corresponding activities. Their enthusiasm was evident and it was obvious that both the instructors and the students knew they were part of history in the making.

The MAPS program is an answer to the challenge of our constituency. In the context of our postmodern society, the church faces some challenges that our forefathers never imagined and for which they did not make plans. We took into consideration all the aspects of globalization as well as technological developments that have changed the face of our planet. Of utmost importance, however, was keeping the Christ-centeredness of the theological training we impart to our students as our primary focus. That explains our curriculum that couples practicality and spirituality. We want our teaching and practice to be informed by both the Revealed and the Living Word of God.

Several factors have contributed to the shaping of the MAPS program. Among them, it will suffice to mention a few pertinent considerations. First, there is a growing need for better trained ministers capable of “imparting the word of truth without deviation” (2 Timothy 2:15, NAB) in this world of increasing specializations. For that to happen, the pastors should develop strong biblical, theological, and practical foundations. We understand, also, that it is imperative to make available, both to our students and to our constituency, the necessary resources for pastoral practice in the twenty-first century. Finally, it is our hope that the MAPS program will create a platform conducive to the identification of community needs and to the development of appropriate strategies for church growth and leadership.

Agniel Samson, Th.D., is chair of the Religion and Theology Department and a facilitator in the establishment of the MAPS degree.
By Minneola W. Dixon

“OAKWOOD UNIVERSITY” ATTRACTS MANY VISITORS

S

ince Oakwood College be-
came Oakwood University on January 1, the institu-
tion has been honored by hundreds of congratulatory
messages, as well as an im-
pressive number of campus visitors. The January and February visi-
 tors consisted of personally, self-guided tourists—
attendants at professional conferences and meetings, bus tour groups from far-away
places, special events, program partici-
pants, and concert artists.

President Delbert W. Baker has been
generously receiving these visitors and
extending warm greetings. His hospital-
ity has included the assistance of some
staff, faculty, and Mrs. Minneola Dixon, the University Archivist, who often gives
visitors a campus tour and historical
overview of Oakwood University while
they view the historic items in the Uni-
versity Museum Exhibit Room.

Mrs. Dixon, who has been greeting
scheduled and unscheduled tour groups
and giving campus tours for over 15
years, says with pride, “This year, how-
ever, is a very unique year for visitors.
Especially, when you realize that we have
only been a university for two months.

The months of January and February
usually do not bring many tourists to our
campus. “March, April, May, and August are
our busiest months for telling the story
of Oakwood’s dynamic history from Mrs.
Dixon. This group had toured some of
the Archives & Museum were given by
Mrs. Ruth Mallory Long of Gordonville,
Virgina; Mrs. Carolyn Hinson of Atlanta,
Georgia; Dr. Frank Hale of Columbus,
Ohio; Elder Ralph Peay of Atlanta, Geor-
ga; Mrs. Paula Thompson of Huntsville,
Alabama; and Dr. Faye Bradley of Inde-
pendence, Kansas.

Oakwood University has been the
recipient of hundreds of accolades from
distinguished visitors and VIPs who have
marveled about the kind and quality of
artificial items which Oakwood ex-
hibits in its museum. The exhibits bring
several important benefits. To Oakwood’s students and visitors, exhibits publicize
holdings and stimulate research. “It has
been an exhilarating pleasure for me,”
says Mrs. Dixon, “to serve as an im-
portant public relations tool by stimulating
interest in campus history and educat-
ing the campus and outsiders about the
institution’s historic accomplishments.”

One such opportunity recently oc-
curred on a Sunday morning in February,
when a bus load of 50 students arrived
on campus from Flint, Michigan. A little
later the North American Division
Presidents escorted, by President Baker,
entered the museum to hear an overview
of Oakwood’s dynamic history from Mrs.
Dixon. This group had toured some of the
buildings on campus earlier that day.

It was not long after their visit that
three VIPs visiting the campus came to
the museum to receive a short lecture on
the history of Oakwood University. This
kind of continuous call for hospitality
repeats itself weekly.

Many University visitors who attend
programs, events, and church services
are invited to visit the museum because
many of them do not know that we have an
archive and museum. Such was the case recently when the world-
renowned duo pianists Altino Brothers
from Queens, New York, presented an
exhilarating piano concert at the Oak-
wood University Church. They were
personally invited by Mrs. Dixon to visit
the museum.

Oakwood University Archives & Museum has scheduled the following
tours for the month of March: (conduct-
ing) the Alumni Homecoming Historic
Bus Tour of Oakwood University and of
Huntsville, Alabama, Friday March 21;
(hosting) the University of Wiscon-
sin’s Freedom Bus Tour comprised of 50
university students, faculty, and ad-
ministrators, on March 27. In addition,
many unscheduled tours are anticipated
throughout the month.

By Minneola W. Dixon

only been a university for two months.

The months of January and February
usually do not bring many tourists to our
campus.

“We have had many University visitors who attend
programs, events, and church services
are invited to visit the museum because
many of them do not know that we have an
archive and museum. Such was the case recently when the world-
renowned duo pianists Altino Brothers
from Queens, New York, presented an
exhilarating piano concert at the Oak-
wood University Church. They were
personally invited by Mrs. Dixon to visit
the museum.

Oakwood University Archives & Museum has scheduled the following
tours for the month of March: (conduct-
ing) the Alumni Homecoming Historic
Bus Tour of Oakwood University and of
Huntsville, Alabama, Friday March 21;
(hosting) the University of Wisconsin-
sin’s Freedom Bus Tour comprised of 50
university students, faculty, and ad-
ministrators, on March 27. In addition,
many unscheduled tours are anticipated
throughout the month.

By Minneola W. Dixon

only been a university for two months.

The months of January and February
usually do not bring many tourists to our
campus.

“We have had many University visitors who attend
programs, events, and church services
are invited to visit the museum because
many of them do not know that we have an
archive and museum. Such was the case recently when the world-
renowned duo pianists Altino Brothers
from Queens, New York, presented an
exhilarating piano concert at the Oak-
wood University Church. They were
personally invited by Mrs. Dixon to visit
the museum.

Oakwood University Archives & Museum has scheduled the following
tours for the month of March: (conduct-
ing) the Alumni Homecoming Historic
Bus Tour of Oakwood University and of
Huntsville, Alabama, Friday March 21;
(hosting) the University of Wisconsin-
sin’s Freedom Bus Tour comprised of 50
university students, faculty, and ad-
ministrators, on March 27. In addition,
many unscheduled tours are anticipated
throughout the month.

By Minneola W. Dixon

only been a university for two months.

The months of January and February
usually do not bring many tourists to our
campus.

“We have had many University visitors who attend
programs, events, and church services
are invited to visit the museum because
many of them do not know that we have an
archive and museum. Such was the case recently when the world-
renowned duo pianists Altino Brothers
from Queens, New York, presented an
exhilarating piano concert at the Oak-
wood University Church. They were
personally invited by Mrs. Dixon to visit
the museum.

Oakwood University Archives & Museum has scheduled the following
tours for the month of March: (conduct-
ing) the Alumni Homecoming Historic
Bus Tour of Oakwood University and of
Huntsville, Alabama, Friday March 21;
(hosting) the University of Wisconsin-
sin’s Freedom Bus Tour comprised of 50
university students, faculty, and ad-
ministrators, on March 27. In addition,
many unscheduled tours are anticipated
throughout the month.

By Minneola W. Dixon

only been a university for two months.

The months of January and February
usually do not bring many tourists to our
campus.

“We have had many University visitors who attend
programs, events, and church services
are invited to visit the museum because
many of them do not know that we have an
archive and museum. Such was the case recently when the world-
renowned duo pianists Altino Brothers
from Queens, New York, presented an
exhilarating piano concert at the Oak-
wood University Church. They were
personally invited by Mrs. Dixon to visit
the museum.

Oakwood University Archives & Museum has scheduled the following
tours for the month of March: (conduct-
ing) the Alumni Homecoming Historic
Bus Tour of Oakwood University and of
Huntsville, Alabama, Friday March 21;
(hosting) the University of Wisconsin-
sin’s Freedom Bus Tour comprised of 50
university students, faculty, and ad-
ministrators, on March 27. In addition,
many unscheduled tours are anticipated
throughout the month.

By Minneola W. Dixon

only been a university for two months.

The months of January and February
usually do not bring many tourists to our
campus.

“We have had many University visitors who attend
programs, events, and church services
are invited to visit the museum because
many of them do not know that we have an
archive and museum. Such was the case recently when the world-
renowned duo pianists Altino Brothers
from Queens, New York, presented an
exhilarating piano concert at the Oak-
wood University Church. They were
personally invited by Mrs. Dixon to visit
the museum.

Oakwood University Archives & Museum has scheduled the following
tours for the month of March: (conduct-
ing) the Alumni Homecoming Historic
Bus Tour of Oakwood University and of
Huntsville, Alabama, Friday March 21;
(hosting) the University of Wisconsin-
sin’s Freedom Bus Tour comprised of 50
university students, faculty, and ad-
ministrators, on March 27. In addition,
many unscheduled tours are anticipated
throughout the month.

By Minneola W. Dixon

only been a university for two months.

The months of January and February
usually do not bring many tourists to our
campus.

“We have had many University visitors who attend
programs, events, and church services
are invited to visit the museum because
many of them do not know that we have an
archive and museum. Such was the case recently when the world-
renowned duo pianists Altino Brothers
from Queens, New York, presented an
exhilarating piano concert at the Oak-
wood University Church. They were
personally invited by Mrs. Dixon to visit
the museum.

Oakwood University Archives & Museum has scheduled the following
tours for the month of March: (conduct-
ing) the Alumni Homecoming Historic
Bus Tour of Oakwood University and of
Huntsville, Alabama, Friday March 21;
(hosting) the University of Wisconsin-
sin’s Freedom Bus Tour comprised of 50
university students, faculty, and ad-
ministrators, on March 27. In addition,
many unscheduled tours are anticipated
throughout the month.

By Minneola W. Dixon

only been a university for two months.

The months of January and February
usually do not bring many tourists to our
campus.

“We have had many University visitors who attend
programs, events, and church services
are invited to visit the museum because
many of them do not know that we have an
archive and museum. Such was the case recently when the world-
renowned duo pianists Altino Brothers
from Queens, New York, presented an
exhilarating piano concert at the Oak-
wood University Church. They were
personally invited by Mrs. Dixon to visit
the museum.

Oakwood University Archives & Museum has scheduled the following
tours for the month of March: (conduct-
ing) the Alumni Homecoming Historic
Bus Tour of Oakwood University and of
Huntsville, Alabama, Friday March 21;
(hosting) the University of Wisconsin-
sin’s Freedom Bus Tour comprised of 50
university students, faculty, and ad-
ministrators, on March 27. In addition,
many unscheduled tours are anticipated
throughout the month.

By Minneola W. Dixon

only been a university for two months.

The months of January and February
usually do not bring many tourists to our
campus.

“We have had many University visitors who attend
programs, events, and church services
are invited to visit the museum because
many of them do not know that we have an
archive and museum. Such was the case recently when the world-
renowned duo pianists Altino Brothers
from Queens, New York, presented an
exhilarating piano concert at the Oak-
wood University Church. They were
personally invited by Mrs. Dixon to visit
the museum.

Oakwood University Archives & Museum has scheduled the following
tours for the month of March: (conduct-
ing) the Alumni Homecoming Historic
Bus Tour of Oakwood University and of
Huntsville, Alabama, Friday March 21;
(hosting) the University of Wisconsin-
sin’s Freedom Bus Tour comprised of 50
university students, faculty, and ad-
ministrators, on March 27. In addition,
many unscheduled tours are anticipated
throughout the month.

By Minneola W. Dixon

only been a university for two months.
Graduation is the culmination of a process that begins almost from the time a person leaves his or her mother’s womb. This process is learning: becoming acquainted with the world, discovering how to interact, recognizing and applying skills and abilities. Yet Commencement is not an end, but another beginning. “Graduation is only a concept. In real life, every day you graduate. Graduation is a process that goes on until the last day of your life. If you can grasp that, you’ll make a difference.”—Arie Pencovici.

At Oakwood University, graduation is a time of prayerful introspection, personal accomplishment, celebration and fellowship with friends for life. ©

Commencement 2007—A Look Back

Graduation is the culmination of a process that begins almost from the time a person leaves his or her mother’s womb. This process is learning: becoming acquainted with the world, discovering how to interact, recognizing and applying skills and abilities. Yet Commencement is not an end, but another beginning. “Graduation is only a concept. In real life, every day you graduate. Graduation is a process that goes on until the last day of your life. If you can grasp that, you’ll make a difference.”—Arie Pencovici.

At Oakwood University, graduation is a time of prayerful introspection, personal accomplishment, celebration and fellowship with friends for life. ©
The 2500-seat sanctuary of Oakwood University Church was filled to capacity by 5:00 p.m. on Sunday, February 24, in support of the program, Festival of Spirituals V. The two-and-a-half-hour program featured 10 choirs, totaling more than 500 voices. Co-directors of the Mass Choir were Mr. Wayne Bucknor and Dr. Wayne Barr. Missy Ming Smith, Director of Information and Community Relations for Madison County Commission, served as Mistress of Ceremonies. Dr. Robert Jennings, President of Alabama A & M University, Dr. David Williams, President of University of Alabama-Huntsville, and Ms. Vickye Hester, representing Dr. Helen McAlpine of J. F. Drake Technical College, brought special greetings. A 15-minute prelude featured Dr. Eurydice Osterman, Organist; Oakwood University Church Chorale; and Excelsia, a combined choral church choir directed by Ms. Heather James.

Festival V attempted to maintain a tradition which began 37 years ago when eight Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) of Alabama formed a consortium known as the Alabama Center for Higher Education (ACHE), located in Birmingham. Presidents of the member institutions comprised the governing body with a prominent Biology Professor, Dr. Richard Arrington as Executive Director. The organization had a staff of 20 people and a budget of $10,000,000 from grants provided by the Carnegie and Ford Foundations. A memorable ACHE initiative was the annual celebration of Black History, during which choirs of member institutions gathered at the Birmingham municipal auditorium for a program known as Festival of Spirituals.

After many years with ACHE, Arrington was elected Mayor of Birmingham. The organization continued for a short while after his departure. That meant, also, the demise of the beloved Festival.

More than a decade later, when appointed coordinator of activities for Oakwood Centennial (1996), remembering the inspiration generated by the Festival of Spirituals, Dr. Roy Malcolm placed it on the Centennial calendar of events. In addition to outstanding alumni, the Festival has also given special recognition to the following notables: Dr. & Mrs. Henry Bradford, retired Alabama A & M Professors of Music; Professor & Mrs. Richard Tucker, retired Alabama A & M Professors of Music; Dr. Richard Arrington, Former Mayor of Birmingham; Dr. Tanzer Virtkhaus, Conductor Emeritus of the Huntsville Symphony Orchestra; Mr. David Johnson, Executive Director of the Alabama Music Hall of Fame; Ms. Vivienne Atkins, Coordinator, Huntsville City Schools, Secondary Magnet Program; Lee High School Orchestral Ensemble; under the direction of Mr. Daniel Hornsby, was a special feature at Festival V. The title of their rendition was “Amazing Grace.”

Join us again on the last Sunday in February 2010, for Festival of Spirituals VI.
When the Oakwood University (OU) Ambassadors men’s basketball team flew to Tulsa, Oklahoma, in response to their first invitation from the United States Collegiate Athletic Association (USCAA) to compete in the 2008 national tournament, they had no idea they would be bringing back the championship trophy. Rising up on faith and the challenging training of Ambassadors Coach Tony Oliver, the team headed to the host campus of Rhema Bible College in Broken Arrow, Oklahoma.

One of the first activities in which the team participated was a banquet on Tuesday evening, February 26, where they had the opportunity to interact with the newest member competing in the tournament, one of the OU Ambassadors, James Doggette, Jr. gave a brief worship thought. Athletic director for Oakwood, James Roddy, stated that Fri-
Q When, where and how did discussions for an institutional name change begin?  
A. We’ve loved the name of Oakwood College for many years. In fact, we’ve loved it for 50 plus years, but it was time for a change, and that time has come to call ourselves Oakwood University. This was not immediate. It was a very deliberate process over a long period of time. Some years ago, a discussion ensured regarding the offering of graduate programs. Whenever graduate programs are considered, that calls for another academic level of study. More specifically, the name change discussion started as a grass roots movement 8 to 10 years ago. People on and off campus began talking about the idea of graduate programs and the need for Oakwood College to expand its offerings.  
Also, it is generally agreed that a university does more than a college, and in many foreign countries, a university is perceived to be on a higher level than a college, since colleges typically only offer baccalaureate diplomas.

Q Was the decision to change the name made by the Board of Trustees?  
A. As of Spring Commencement 2008, all new diplomas granted by the institution bear the name Oakwood University.  
Q. Can I get a diploma with the new name even though I graduated before the name became effective?  
A. Yes. It is the practice in the academic community whenever an institution changes its name that its graduates be given the opportunity to elect whether to have the old name or the new name on their diploma.

Q What name will Oakwood diplomas have on them?  
A. No. Tuition increases are almost always the result of increased operating costs. The name change alone would not necessitate such an increase.

Q Why make this change now?  
A. This process has been ongoing for about 10 years now, and basically the academic community at Oakwood accepted the responsibility to do an assessment to determine the strengths, as well as the challenges facing the institution. They also had to identify the potential for the College to go from what’s called a Level II institution to a Level III. Now, levels represent a classification, called The Carnegie Classification for Institutions. A Level III institution is one in which the highest degree offered is the baccalaureate degree, and that’s the status Oakwood has maintained for many years. A Level II institution is one in which the highest degree offered is a master’s degree, and that master’s degree is offered in one particular academic area. You can move from Level III to Level IV as you expand your graduate program to include different disciplines.

Q. Are there other uses of the name, Oakwood University?  
A. The results of a thorough search by our university and General Conference attorneys indicated that the name of Oakwood University is legally, free and clear. There is a corporate entity which uses the name Oakwood University to describe its in-house training program, but it was determined that the usage is substantially and legally different from our use of the term Oakwood University to describe us as a higher education institution.  
Q. Will the online domain address (www.oakwood.edu) or email address change?  
A. Yes, the domain address will remain exactly the same since it has never included the word, “college.”  
Q. What are the costs for such a name change and who’s paying the bill?  
A. Most of the immediate costs for the name change will involve signage on highways, lampposts, the electronic marquee, entry gate signs, campus roads, and buildings. Other costs are for diplomas, transcripts, recruitment material, stationary, business cards, uniforms, vehicles, and memorabilia, etc. There are also legal expenses for official documents, and the radio station call letters. The College has been putting money away over the past few years in anticipation of such a name change, however; the costs will be significant. There are different ways that people can give to support the name change, and if you would like some more information, contact our office of advancement and Development, which will be more than happy to work with you.

Q. What can I do to reference the university on my resume?  
A. Oakwood University is now available through the campus bookstore, operated by GEI Enterprises.

Q. This will be the 5th name for Oakwood in its 112 year history, is it anticipated that there might be another name change in the future?  
A. Not in the near future. Even as the institutions offer more graduate level courses over ensuing years, our “level” designation will change, but the University designation will remain the same.

Q. What can I do to accept and help with the transition?  
A. We actively seek the help of our campus and community family and all stakeholders, including supporters and our alumni. You can help by going online, by getting information, and by asking questions in order to gain knowledge. The second thing is to have enthusiasm. We’re excited about it; be happy, celebrate with us. We’re constantly moving forward. We’ve had a great year! We had the highest enrollment in history! We have great supporters with our fundraisers; we have some dynamic new programs offered in the Academic Area. And you’ve heard our cool news about the U.S. News and World Report listing OU among the top colleges in the southern tier. These are things that our supporters and graduates can be excited about. Another way in which people can really help is by making a donation, and studies do show that it actually attracts donors (the name University). People like the idea of University, and enjoy donating for such causes.

Also, networking with faculty, administration, and other alumni will help. They can get the good word around to our graduates, they can help us strengthen programs in our school, they can refer people to Oakwood.  
And you can definitely pray for us, and continue to ask God to bless Oakwood, as He has in the past.

This list of FAQs was compiled by the Name Change Committee, which was assigned to the task of systematically identifying and addressing University-related issues directly impacted by the new institutional name. The committee is chaired by Dr. Timothy McDonald Director of Adult and Continuing Education (LEAP and online education).
Judge R. Joy Walker: “Experience and Commitment”

Judge R. Joy Walker has demonstrated her commitment to matters of public concern through her twenty-plus years of public service. She has utilized her God-given abilities and her experience to address the needs of others in a variety of different ways. Upon receiving her Bachelor of Science degree from Oakwood College and a Master of Public Health degree from the University of Alabama, Judge Walker served as a public health associate for the Centers for Disease Control.

Judge Walker received her Juris Doctorate from the University of Dayton School of Law, whereupon she practiced a private practice concentrating on employment, criminal personal injury, and domestic relations law. She is a graduate of Leadership DeKalb, and has completed executive and judicial training at both the National Judicial College and the John F. Kennedy School of Gov-ernment at Harvard University. In addition to her private practice, Judge Walker became an adjunct professor with John Marshall School of Law in Atlanta, Georgia in 1994, where she has lectured in the areas of Administrative Law, Georgia Practice, Pre-Trial Advocacy, Appellate Advocacy, and Medical Malpractice.

Judge Walker has served as a senior public defender with the Office of the Public Defender for the City of Atlanta. Due in large part to her reputation as a skilled and knowledgeable attorney, Judge Walker was appointed in 2001 as an associate judge in the Recorder’s Court of DeKalb County, Georgia. She ascended to the position of chief judge of the Recorder’s Court in 2002, where she currently serves. In her current position, Judge Walker is the chief judicial administrator of the Recorder’s Court, managing a departmental budget in excess of $3 million annually and supervising the collection of revenues in excess of $15 million per year. In addition to hearing cases and the supervision of judges, administrative staff, and other court personnel, Judge Walker also manages court scheduling and docketing, as well as conducting interdepartmental training with Code Enforcement, Animal Control, and Police Recruits.

The effects of Judge Walker’s take-charge philosophy have quickly paid large dividends for the Recorder’s Court and DeKalb County as a whole. The following are only a few of the numerous accomplishments Judge Walker has achieved in her role as chief judge of the Recorder’s Court: the reorganization of court scheduling to streamline expenditures in Public Safety; the implementation of court cost provisions as prescribed by the county code increasing revenue in excess of $300,000 annually; identifying specific areas of loss revenue and implementing an in-house collections department; the implementation of probation services for the court; and the implementation of a joint program with DeKalb County Public School System “Community Responsibility Training Program” to benefit young adult drivers ages 17-21.

Judge Walker is also responsible for updating the courthouse security systems and implementing a court management system with imaging capabilities. In order to improve community involvement and awareness, Judge Walker implemented a Public Safety Art and Essay Contest for middle school aged students.

In addition to sitting on the Recorder’s Court Bench, Judge Walker sits by designation on the State and Superior Court Bench and presides regularly over the Educational Neglect Calendar at the State Court. She has also sat pro tem in juvenile court.

Judge Walker is a member of numerous professional and civic organizations which include: the State Bar of Georgia, the DeKalb Bar Association, DeKalb Legal Assistance Foundation, Lawyers Foundation, the NAACP, the Georgia Association of Black Women Attorneys, and the National Bar Association. Judge Walker is a member of the Atlanta Belvedere Seventh-day Adventist Church, where she serves on a number of committees.

Donors Make History*

The progress of Oakwood University in so many areas is dependent on the stellar support of its friends and supporters. The contributions of the following persons and organizations noted in this Donor Emphasis Section have been either directly or indirectly important to Oakwood’s ability to begin graduate programs and subsequently change its name.

Committee of 100: $250,000 to underwrite the Master of Arts in Pastoral Studies graduate degree and numerous other institutional gifts; graduate degree classes officially started January, 2008

Sodexo Campus Services: $300,000 to support the construction of BCBLC and the renovation of the C. E. Moseley Religion Complex, Grand Opening, October 22, 2007

Dedicated Service

Dr. Sherman Cox

Dr. Sherman Cox retired in 2007 as Director of the Office of Alumni Affairs. During that time he served admirably as coordinator of the annual Alumni Homecoming Weekend. His leadership in this capacity has been exemplary.

The Office of Alumni Affairs as well as the Oakwood University Alumni Association owe a great deal of their success to his perseverance. Dr. Cox also served in the area of Development, helping to raise thousands of dollars for student scholarships and aid. On behalf of the current Director of Alumni Affairs, Victoria Joiner Miller, we thank Dr. Cox for his service and invaluable contributions to the institution and wish him the best as he enters his retirement years. His professionalism, integrity, knowledge, and ready smile will always be fondly cherished.

Donors Make History*

The progress of Oakwood University in so many areas is dependent on the stellar support of its friends and supporters. The contributions of the following persons and organizations noted in this Donor Emphasis Section have been either directly or indirectly important to Oakwood’s ability to begin graduate programs and subsequently change its name.

Committee of 100: $250,000 to underwrite the Master of Arts in Pastoral Studies graduate degree and numerous other institutional gifts; graduate degree classes officially started January, 2008

Sodexo Campus Services: $300,000 to support the construction of BCBLC and the renovation of the C. E. Moseley Religion Complex, Grand Opening, October 22, 2007

Generous gifts of more than $1 m were given to the construction of the BCBLC and the renovation of C. E. Moseley Religion Complex: the members of the Oakwood College Board of Trustees; General Conference of SDA, the North American Division, all of the Unions of the NAD and the Regional Conferences, the Regional Offices of the Pacific Union, the North Pacific Union, the Southeastern California Conference, the Southern California Conference, and the Bermuda Conference, Grand Opening, October 22, 2007

McKee Family: $1m in support of BCBLC, the Bi&T Complex, scholarships and other campus initiatives, the Business and Technology Complex will be named the McKee Business and Technology Complex, April 21, 2008

Holland Family: More than $1 m in support of the construction of the new men’s Residence Hall in honor of their parents, Burks and Elene Holland, avid supporters of Oakwood University and Christian education

The students, faculty, staff, administration, Board of Trustees and thousands of graduates and supporters of Oakwood University around the world join together in thanking those who have made supporting and giving back to Oakwood a priority. Thank you.

Please contact the Office of Advancement and Development (256-726-7384) or the Office of the President (256-726-7335) for giving information, endorsements, naming opportunities, future projects, or how you can participate in the legacy of Oakwood University and the future of its students.

*An upcoming OU Magazine issue will feature the Donors who have invested in Oakwood University and how their gifts have made a significant difference. The issue will also highlight the Grand Openings, Naming Occasions and Dedications that have resulted from the largess of friends of Oakwood. For name listing of all donors to the various Oakwood projects, see the Donor Boards in their respective facilities.
Our hearts go out to the families of:

Walter M. Arnold, III – brother-in-law of employee Sabrina Cotton
Cecil Bowens – brother of current student Whitney Bowens
Herman Chambers – father of employee Audrey Chambers
Leon Davis – most remembered as Youth Director of Northeastern Conference
Jonathan Dulan – son of Boyce and Monica Dulan
Calvin Eakins, Sr. – father of employee Lewis Eakins
Martha Horton – aunt of employees JoAnna Mack and Celestine Robinson
Edison R. Ible – brother of employee Kaven Ible
Frank L. Jones – class of 1951
Robert O. Knight, Jr. – Class of 1993
Hyacinth Lewis-Nelson – mother of employee Janice Lewis-Thomas
Diane King McKinney – sister-in-law of employee Rupert Bushner
Ursula B. Millet – former First Lady of Oakwood College and mother of employee Debbie Millet
John Robinson – father of employee John Robinson, Jr.
Darryl Robinson – former Aeolian baritone
Clara Rugless – aunt of employees Diane Rugless and Janet Rugless
Dr. Robert E. Shurney – strong supporter
Ruth Frazier Stafford – former school nurse during the 1950s
Gloria O. Tivy – wife of Elder Cleveland Tivy
John Walker – son of James Walker
Marline Walker – wife of James Walker
Mary E. West – mother-in-law of employee Jonathan Thompson
Edna Lilet Williamson – officer in the Oakwood Alumni Association
H. LaVaughn Wilson – father of Michelle Ramey

To all other members of the Oakwood family who have lost loved ones, we apologize if any names have been omitted.

Our hearts go out to the families of:

Frank L. Jones

Ruth Frazier Stafford

Ursula B. Millet

New Employees

(since July 1, 2007)

Oakwood has welcomed the following individuals as new employees since July 1, 2007:

Lisa Andrews (Physical Plant Services)
Byron Bradshaw (Sponsored Programs)
Michelle Brown (Health Services)
Edrita Bryant (Student Accounts)
Dwayne Cheddard (Communication & Art)
Alice Daniel (Physical Education)
Elouise Francis (Child Development)
Lorraine Frye (Social Work)
Charles Gardner (Physical Education)
Stephen Gray (Physical Plant Services)
Oscar Gunn, III (Public Safety)
Jamie Hall (Sponsored Programs)
Ronay Hannah (Family & Consumer Science)
Alireza Hassanzadah (Math & Computer Science)
David Henry (Business & Information Systems)
Saran Johnson (Information Technology)
Freida LaPaugh (Music)
Darnayye Losada-Ibarra (Student Accounts)
Andrew Marshall (Sponsored Programs)
Gilbert Ojwang (Religion)
Tony Oliver (Physical Education)
Robert Pressley (Public Safety)
Doron Pyfrom (Public Safety)
Kelsey Roach (Sponsored Programs)
Jonathan Robinson (Physical Education)
Heather Rodriguez-James (Library)
Rondora Scott (Nursing)
Ambrey Watkins (Business & Information Systems)
Karen Watson (Communication & Art)
Cheri Wilson (Development)
Jesse Wilson (Religion & Theology)
Rwanda Wynder (Carter Hall)

Additions to the Oakwood family

(since July 1, 2007)

Congratulations to the families of these little ones who have joined us since July 1, 2007:

Jamarea Faith Fields
Parents: Melody & Johnathan Fields
Christopher Anthony Walker
Parents: Anthony & Simone Walker
Joanna Alexis Caldwell
Parents: Gail & James Caldwell
Dylan Danae McNish
Parents: Chris & Dominque McNish
Savonne Elise Taylor
Parents: Michael & Bonita Taylor

License Plates Available

Alabamians can support Oakwood by purchasing a collegiate car tag. At the time of registration renewal, replace your regular tag with one identifying you as a supporter of Oakwood University (personalize it if you wish), by requesting a “prestige” or “vanity” tag. Proceeds should contact the Motor Vehicle License Department help provide scholarships for OU students from Alabama. The cost is a modest $52, in addition to your regular collegiate car tag. At the time of registration renewal, replace your regular tag with one identifying you as a supporter of Oakwood University (personalize it if you wish), by requesting a “prestige” or “vanity” tag. Proceeds support the Motor Vehicle License Department in their respective counties. Currently, the OU collegiate tags may be used only on vehicles registered in Alabama. The design is scheduled to change later in 2008 to reflect the school’s name change to University. Watch for further information.
Cyberspace and Faith and Learning

Teaching my music education class online a few semesters ago was quite an experience. If you had told me two years ago that there was such a thing as ‘cyberspace worship,’ I would not have believed it. How could this be or even happen? Well, it happened to me one morning!

It was Friday, January 24, 2004. My lecture focused on the opera Dido and Aeneas, written by the distinguished British composer Henry Purcell. The assignment was to extrapolate the historical and musical significance of this work, more specifically the musical function of the ground bass in ‘Dido’s Lament.’ For those of you who are not familiar with this work, the ‘Lament’ is built on a ground bass—an ostinato passage about which the composer Henry Purcell wrote, “The Rock of Ages.” Where stands our faith today? Are we building upon the sands of human philosophies, or upon Him? “On the Rock of Ages founded, naught can shake our sure repose.” (Taken from The Wonderful Names of Our Wonderful Lord, by Charles H. Hough)

By the time I had written the ‘thought’ on the online whiteboard and then entered the discussion room with my usual expression, ‘please read the ‘thought for the day,’ and ponder it for a moment,’ the students were already sending their comments to each other. Their comments ranged from ‘On Christ, the solid Rock I stand,’ to ‘Jehovah hide me, I am under the Rock,’ and ‘O safe to the Rock it is higher than I.’ You probably recognize these as phrases taken from historic Adventist hymns, of which I do not have many. However, in just a few days, soon the online conversation took another direction as students began to ponder and reflect.

One student expressed his thoughts by writing, ‘It is truly wonderful that the Master of the universe and beyond everything, who does not have much to do, may be called the sons of God. His promises are precious and new every morning.’

Another student, whose first language is not English, piped in, ‘. . . for in human nature, there is nothing that can bring us closer to Him. Therefore, why not look up to the Rock of ages, from whom all blessings flow?’ This same student continued, ‘I would even say He is my Rock’

I asked, ‘What do you mean by Rock and Roll!’

He replied, ‘Roll as in bread,’ while another student quickly typed in, ‘Living bread.’ After further comments by various students we all came away knowing that she meant the Lord is my Rock and also my Roll (the Living Bread). He is solid but also soft. He is full of discipline and yet full of compassion.

‘What a beautiful metaphor!’ stated another student, an explanation that was punctuated by ‘Amen,’ ‘My Lawd,’ ‘Hey Lawd!’ and many declarations of ‘Have mercy!’

After prayer by one of the students, I could not help marveling at what was scrolling across my computer screen. The student’s prayer was thus:

‘We appreciate the opportunity that we have had over the past few semesters to be taught at Oakwood College. We welcome your presence into this class today. We appreciate Your sacrifices for us way back on Calvary. We would ask now that You would redeem the next few moments that we spend in this virtual classroom, in Your own name. We now interpose Your divine ability to make clear every word. Now we pray to You because we know You can bless us in our individual ways. We know all about our classmates who are concerned, or perplexed, or weighed down. Set free.’

The prayer continued, ‘We ask all these blessings in the matchless name of Jesus Christ, whose count we done. Amen’ [unedited].

I usually follow the prayer by moving about faith and learning into the prayer ‘We welcome You, Holy Spirit.’ The prayer continued, ‘We ask all these blessings in the matchless name of Jesus Christ, whose count we done. Amen’ [unedited].

Some of the best national experts in distance learning were invited to present information for transforming traditional classroom instruction into online teaching. Among the presenters were faculty from Fielding Graduate University and Capella University, DePaul University of Chicago and the University of Pennsylvania—Rina Paloff, Keith Pratt and Janosy and Steve Rocco. These presenters taught the participants how to conduct an online course and how to introduce and incorporate both blogging and pod casing as classroom learning tools. Participants were challenged to develop a short pod cast about something that stood out in them of their respective courses. In addition, they developed tools for both blended and hybrid courses. Each faculty member committed to incorporating these concepts into their teaching, sharing this information with their respective campuses, and developing a virtual network to enhance faculty collaboration.

Participants in the institute had only positive comments to share, ranging from “This was the most organized conference I have been to,” to “[We] congratulate you and your team on the excellent Mellon HBCU Institute that was orga- nized at Oakwood University. We are sure all attendees learned a lot and our students will benefit from the training we received.”

Cynthia Spence, director of the Mellon-UNCF Summer Institute, remarked that she was impressed with the proposal and the tools offered to faculty will be instrumental in bridging the digital divide for students of color.

Edith Fraser, Ph.D., is director of Faculty Development and Research and serves as a social work professor at Oakwood University in Huntsville, Alabama.

Special Institute Challenges Faculty in Online Instruction

BY DR. EDITH FRASER
I cannot rest because of the many representations made to me, showing that our people are in danger of losing precious opportunities of working earnestly and wisely for the proclamation of the third angel’s message. Satan with all his agencies is working to hold God’s people back from giving all their powers to His service. But as a people we are to be active and decidedly in earnest, improving every opportunity to increase our usefulness in religious lines. We are to be “not slothful in business, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord.” Possessing true godliness and knowledge of the Word of God, every church member may become a working agency, laboring with dignity and confidence, yet with humble dependence, remembering the words of Christ to His first disciples, “I send you forth as lambs in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents and harmless as doves.” We need to exercise wisdom in all our ways if we would work in the name and fear of God. Unfeigned faith is what we need, for faith is “the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.”

I have visited the Huntsville School, and I believe that it has many advantages for the carrying on of the work of an all-round education. It is the privilege of those who labor there to make it a blessed place of preparation for usefulness in the work of God.

I am praying that every soul of you will fill the place that the Lord designs for you. He will work for each one according to his faith. There is a picture representing a bullock standing between a plow and an altar, and with the picture is an inscription, “Ready for either.” Thus we should be ready to tread the weary furrow or to bleed on the altar of sacrifice. This singleness of purpose, this devotion to duty, is to be expressed in the life of every child of God. This was the position our Savior occupied while upon the earth; it is the position that every follower of His will occupy.

The salvation made sure to the human race through the sacrifice of Christ was intended alike for all races and nationalities. There are some of all nationalities who are never inclined to draw in even cords with their fellow men. They want to be a ruling power. And unless the power of God is recognized and appreciated, and believers work intelligently for the accomplishment of God’s purpose for all mankind, God will leave them to their own ways, and will use other instruments through which to accomplish His plans. And those who refuse to do the work laid upon them will finally be found on the enemy’s side, warring against order and discipline.

---

Devotional

Context: In this open letter to those recently assembled at the Oakwood School, Mrs. White unburdens her heart.

August 23, 1908

---

A Place Called Oakwood, pp. 54-55.
Oakwood College is now...

**OAKWOOD UNIVERSITY**

The Oakwood story began in 1896 with a dream, a former plantation, and 16 pioneering students. Today, Oakwood has attained university status. An award-winning campus, Oakwood University has received distinction in its undergraduate programs with more than 16 areas of study, and approximately 60 degree offerings. The first graduate students are working toward a Master of Arts degree in Pastoral Studies. Oakwood’s multicultural student body comes from across the U.S.A. and forty countries around the world.

For information on graduate, undergraduate, adult education or online education, please contact:

**Oakwood University**
7000 Adventist Boulevard, NW
Huntsville, Alabama 35896
(256) 726-7000
www.oakwood.edu